

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3 and 8-13 have been withdrawn from consideration. Rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn claims is solicited.

Attached is a verified translation of the Japanese priority application to be made of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55. This translation perfects applicants' claim of priority to July 15, 2002.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as anticipated by KABAYAMA 2003/0210084.

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected as obvious in further view of SEO EP 1 061 509.

Claim 6 was rejected as obvious in further view of MASAKI 5,732,055.

As noted above, making the attached verified translation of the Japanese priority application of record in accordance with 37 CFR 1.55 perfects applicants' claim of priority to July 15, 2002. The U.S. filing date of KABAYAMA is October 8, 2002.

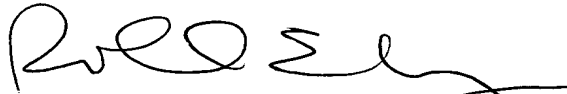
Since the U.S. filing date of KABAYAMA is subsequent to the July 15, 2002 priority date of the present application, KABAYAMA is not prior art to the present application and all the rejections should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949
745 South 23rd Street
Arlington, VA 22202
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☐ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure 3 of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- ☒ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document